

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of displaying personal connection information,
comprising:

extracting metadata related to a plurality of persons from among
5 electronic data that include information about the persons;

linking the metadata extracted based on a co-occurrence of the
information about the persons in the electronic data; and

displaying graphically relationship between the persons based
on the metadata linked.

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2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the electronic data is
an electronic document on the Internet.

3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the linking includes
15 linking the metadata based on a structure of the electronic data from
which the metadata is extracted.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the linking includes
linking the metadata based on the co-occurrence of the information
20 about the persons in a combined electronic data which is obtained by
combining a plurality of electronic data.

5. The method according to claim 1, further comprising retrieving,
from among the metadata linked in the metadata linking process, the
25 metadata that satisfy a filter condition, wherein

the displaying includes displaying graphically the relationship between the persons based on the metadata retrieved.

6. The method according to claim 1, further comprising displaying
5 a suitable venue for assembly of the persons whose relationship has been displayed.

7. A computer program for realizing displaying of personal connection information, the computer program making a computer
10 execute:

extracting metadata related to a plurality of persons from among electronic data that include information about the persons;

linking the metadata extracted based on a co-occurrence of the information about the persons in the electronic data; and

15 displaying graphically relationship between the persons based on the metadata linked.

8. The computer program according to claim 7, wherein the electronic data is an electronic document on the Internet.
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9. The computer program according to claim 7, wherein the linking includes linking the metadata based on a structure of the electronic data from which the metadata is extracted.

25 10. The computer program according to claim 7, wherein the linking

includes linking the metadata based on the co-occurrence of the information about the persons in a combined electronic data which is obtained by combining a plurality of electronic data.

- 5 11. The computer program according to claim 7, further making the computer execute retrieving, from among the metadata linked in the metadata linking process, the metadata that satisfy a filter condition, wherein

the displaying includes displaying graphically the relationship
10 between the persons based on the metadata retrieved.

12. The computer program according to claim 7, further making the computer execute displaying a suitable venue for assembly of the persons whose relationship has been displayed.

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13. A computer-readable recording medium that stores a computer program for realizing displaying of personal connection information, the computer program making a computer execute:

extracting metadata related to a plurality of persons from among
20 electronic data that include information about the persons;

linking the metadata extracted based on a co-occurrence of the information about the persons in the electronic data; and

displaying graphically relationship between the persons based on the metadata linked.

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14. An apparatus for displaying personal connection information, comprising:

an extracting unit that extracts metadata related to a plurality of persons from among electronic data that include information about the
5 persons;

a linking unit that links the metadata extracted based on a co-occurrence of the information about the persons in the electronic data; and

a displaying unit that displays graphically relationship between
10 the persons based on the metadata linked.

15. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the electronic data is an electronic document on the Internet.

15 16. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the linking unit links the metadata based on a structure of the electronic data from which the metadata is extracted.

17. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the linking unit
20 links the metadata based on the co-occurrence of the information about the persons in a combined electronic data which is obtained by combining a plurality of electronic data.

18. The apparatus according to claim 14, further comprising a
25 retrieving unit that retrieves, from among the metadata linked in the

metadata linking process, the metadata that satisfy a filter condition,
wherein

the displaying unit displays graphically the relationship between
the persons based on the metadata retrieved.

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19. The apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the displaying unit
displays a suitable venue for assembly of the persons whose
relationship has been displayed.